

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 2011

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

As Members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, we write to you today because Illinois is facing challenges that must be addressed.

Since January of this year, our state has lost a total of 89,000 jobs. Our unemployment rate in the State of Illinois has risen for the third straight month in a row. We cannot stand by and watch these numbers get even worse – and we cannot let more jobs slip away to other states that have a more pro-business environment.

We hear from constituents every day about just how hard it is to live and work in our state. Whether it is the small business owner struggling to find capital to reinvest in their venture or the parent who is seeing more of their income taxed to pay for budget deficits, Illinoisans are tired of more taxes, regulations, and uncertainty.

As Members of Congress overseeing a vast federal budget that itself is in the red, we certainly understand the difficulty in trying to solve budgetary issues. However, raising individual income taxes by 66 percent will only exacerbate our wider problem and take more Illinois residents off the tax roll when they leave our state. Middle class families are already stretched thin. A family of four earning \$60,000 a year right now has an additional \$1,040 to pay in taxes each year. We understand this might not seem like much but for the families in our districts this is money that they cannot afford to lose.

The largest employers in the state of Illinois are struggling too. Illinois has the third highest corporate tax rate in the country and this takes away from their competitive edge and ability to create new jobs. Many of our large employers based in Illinois could leave as a result of the new 9 percent corporate tax rate that was raised from 6.8 percent in January. These are critical jobs that must be protected. We are willing to work with you on this issue as similar measures are considered right now in Congress.

We ask that you immediately look at measures that can help Illinois families and small businesses. This can be done through lower taxes, less regulations, and a balanced state budget. America needs to know that Illinois is serious about job creation and that this is the best place to raise a family and start a business – and we want to work with you in any way we can to do this.

Sincerely,



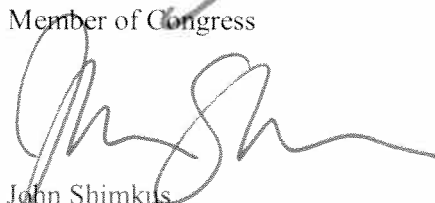
Joe Walsh
Member of Congress



Don Manzullo
Member of Congress



Bobby Schilling
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress